

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00704 251629Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8439
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0704

STADIS//////////

GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PGOV, LT
SUBJERH: PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER

REF: A. MASERU 0657 (NOTAL), B. MASERU 0375,

1. DURING RECENT VISIT OF PEACE CORPS LEADERSHIP IN MASERU, PRIME MINISTER ASKED MRS. PAYTON (REF B) IF PEACE CORPS COULD PROVIDE A CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER AND A RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNER.

2. CHARGE PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNER PER SE ALTHOUGH SUCCESS IN SUCH POSITION IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE IN VIEW OF DISORGANIZED, POORLY MANAGED AND BADLY LED MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER IS QUITE A DIFFERENT THING. CHARGE BELIEVES IT IS NEITHER CONSISTENT WITH THE ROLE OF PEACE CORPS (TO SERVE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS) NOR POLITICALLY WISE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO GET INTO THE POSITION OF PARTICIPATING IN PREPARATION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR LESOTHO. THE PREPARATION OF SUCH A DOCUMENT AND THE DOCUMENT ITSELF WHEN DRAWN ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO BECOME CENTERS OF DOMESTIC, POLITICAL CONTROVERSY HERE. I BELIEVE THE
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USG SHOULD REMAIN IN THE POSITION OF OBSERVER (AND POSSIBLY COMMENTATOR) AND NOT BE DRAWN INTO THE MECHANICS OF PREPARATION.

4. I FIND IT ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF THAT PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN WOULD PUSH THE REQUEST FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER FURTHER AND I HAVE ADVISED THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR HERE NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE ANY FURTHER STEPS IN TRYING TO EVOKE A WRITTEN REQUEST (REFTEL A).

STOKES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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